

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OES-03 AGR-05 PM-03 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6266

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 0584

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ON AGRICULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION

1. THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, AT THE
CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE MULTI-NATIONALLY
FINANCED (USG INCLUDED) ICRISAT PROJECT AT HYDERABAD.

2. HER SPEECH, WHICH SHE READ IN ENGLISH FROM A PREPARED
TEXT, WAS COMPLIMENTARY, CONSTRUCTIVE AND DIGNIFIED IN TONE.
SHE PRAISED THE WORK OF ICRISAT IN HELPING TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF FOOD AVAILABLE TO THE MASSES IN THE SEMI-
ARID TROPICS. SHE CALLED THE WAR AGAINST HUNGER "THE GREATEST
OF ALL WARS" AND QUOTED HER FATHER AS SAYING THAT, "EVERYTHING
CAN WAIT BUT NOT AGRICULTURE". SHE STATED THAT INDIA, WHILE
PROUD OF ITS OWN SCIENTISTS IN THE AREA OF FOOD TECH-
NOLOGY, "ALWAYS WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS AND HELP FROM THOSE
WILLING TO OFFER IT". IN THIS LATTER REGARD, SHE EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION TO THOSE COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL

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ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAD AIDED ICRISAT. FINALLY SHE

EXPRESSED HER PLEASURE THAT THE GOI HAD CHOSED (THROUGH
DONATION OF LAND AND OTHER WISE) TO ASSIST ICRISAT AND
SHE PLEDGED CONTINUED GOI COOPERATION TO THAT INSTITUTE.

3. THE ONLY MINOR NOTE OF PIQUE, OR ANYTHING CLOSE TO IT,
IN THE SPEECH WAS MRS. GANDHI'S RETORT TO THE (UNMAMED)
CRITICS WHO HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT INDIA HAS OVEREMPHASIZED
INDUSTRIALIZATION AT THE EXPENSE OF AGRICULTURE AND
RELATED AREAS. THESE CRITICS, SHE SAID, OVERLOOK THE FACT
THAT ONLY THROUGH A SOUND INDUSTRIAL BASE - DAMS, POWER
PLANTS, ETC. - CAN AGRICULTURE BE MADE TO PAY OFF.
SCHNEIDER

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